is estimated at 213 lakh bales as compared of 177 lakh bales in the cotton year 2003-04. The total consumption of cotton is also expected to increase from 173.25 lakh bales in 2003-04 to 193 lakh bales in the current cotton year 2004-05. On account of enhanced cotton production, the import of cotton during the current cotton year may witness a marginal decrease to 5 lakh bales from 6.50 lakh bales in the last cotton season. The domestic cotton prices at some places have touched the Minimum Support Price declared by the Government and the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has procured 1, 14,58,571 quintals of kapas (equivalent to lint cotton of 22,23,175 bales of 170 kg each), which is an all time high.

(c) From time to time, representations from various quarters for export of cotton are received. At present export of cotton is free without any quantitative restriction. However, the actual quantum of export depends upon the market forces.

Textiles Mills in North-Eastern Region

294. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of textiles mills proposed to be set up in the States of North-Eastern Region during the current year; and

(b) the details of financial allocation made by government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government does not set up mills in the country. The role of the Government in this regard is that of a facilitator. The Government through various schemes and policies create conducive environment for the growth of the textile mills.

(b) Does not arise.

Financial support for Handloom Sector

295. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that handloom sector is in a declining stage and most of the weavers families are living below poverty line;

(b) what type of financial support Government are going to introduce for them;

(c) the details of the schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) (a) to (c) The Government of India has been implementing following schemes for the development and welfare of handloom sector in the country:

(1) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana

(2) Marketing Promotion Programme

(3) Handloom Export Scheme

(4) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(5) Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate@10% given by the handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth.

(6) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme

(7) Weavers Welfare Scheme comprising:-

* Health Package Scheme

* Thrift Fund Scheme

* New Insurance Scheme

(8) Bunkar Bima Yojana

(9) Integated Handloom Training Project

(10) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985

The details of the schemes are given in the Statement.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of Schemes for Handloom Sector
Financial Support for Handloom Sector

1.1 Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana:

The Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) is a compre-

hensive handloom development scheme covering a wide gamut of activities related to handlooms. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided through the State Governments to National Level Handloom Organisations, State Handloom Development Corporations, Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies/Federations, Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and Self Help Groups/NGOs for enhancing working capital, developing infrastructure, strengthening of State level apex organizations and Corporations, marketing of handloom product, design development, loom modification and skill upgradation etc. A special component to provide Transport Subsidy for transportation of finished goods from North Eastern States, Sikkim and J&K has also been incorporated in the scheme.

1.2 Marketing Promotion Programme:

Marketing Promotion Programme (MPP) is a Scheme providing for the organization of Exhibitions & Fairs through various agencies to promote the marketing of handlooms in the country.

1.3 Handloom Export Scheme:

Under the Handloom Export Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the eligible agencies for development of exportable products, publicity and participation in international trade events.

1.4 Mill Gate Price Scheme:

The scheme envisages adequate supply of all types of yarn to the weavers required for production of handloom items at prices prevailing at the Mill Gate.

1.5 Scheme for reimbursement of one Time Rebate@10% given by the Handloom agencies on the sale of Handloom Cloth:

The Scheme envisages reimbursement of one time rebate@ 10% given by the handloom agencies on sale of handloom cloth.

1.6 Workshed-cum-Housing:

The basic objective of the scheme is to provide a suitable work place and dwelling units for ensuring a better work environment for the weavers. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided for the construction of workshed/Workshed-cum-Houses.

1.7 Weavers' Welfare Scheme:

The Government of India is implementing the Weavers' welfare schemes

for taking care of the health problems, social security and also insurance cover to the handloom weavers, the details of which are as under:

(i) Health Package Scheme

Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided towards reimbursement of cost of medicines and treatment of diseases like asthma, tuberculosis and inflammation of respiratory system, cost of eye testing and spectacles, supply of drinking water, maternity benefits to women weavers, payment of additional compensation for permanent measures of family planning and infrastructure for the primary health care.

(ii) Thrift Fund Scheme

The Scheme envisages creation of a fund in the nature of a provident fund for taking care of children's education, medical expenses of family members and expenses in connection with marriage and other religious ceremonies. The contribution to the fund is shared by the Weaver, the State Government and the Central Government.

(iii) New Insurance Scheme for handloom weavers

The New Insurance Scheme provides coverage against loss against various types of risks such as loss of life, permanent total/partial disability due to accidents, loss or damage to the dwelling units, raw materials, finished products etc. due to natural calamities.

1.8 Bunkar Bima Yojana:

This scheme is a combination of the Janshree Bima Yojana and Add-on Group Insurance implemented in collaboration with the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The objective of the scheme is to provide enhanced insurance cover to the handloom weavers in the case of natural as well as accidental death.

1.9 Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP):

The Scheme provides assistance for skill upgradation in weaving, dyeing, design development and managerial skills.

1.10 Implementation of handlooms (Reservation of articles for production) Act, 1985:

Under the Act, protection to the handloom sector was extended by way of reserving certain textile articles, which were traditionally being produced

on handlooms for lower and middle class. The Act is being implemented through the Central and State Government Enforcement Machineries.

Strengthening of domestic Textile Industry

296. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of textiles that India is expected to export during 2005-06 in the light of the textile sector entering into the GATT discipline of WTO;

(b) whether it is not a fact that domestic industry is exposed to international competition from 1st January, 2005; and

(c) if so, what measures the Government are taking to strengthen the domestic textile industry, including cotton industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) With removal of quotas, Indian textile exportsare expected to cross $ 15 billion in 2005-06. According to a study by CRISIL (commissioned by Indian Cotton Mills Federation), the India's textile and clothing industry has the potential to double the country's share of the global textiles and clothing market to 6 per cent, implying export earnings of US$ 40 billion by 2010.

(b) The free global trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities for the indigenous textile industry. At the same time, it will expose the domestic industry to increased competition in the international market. The industry will have to improve its efficiency and productivity to meet the emerging global competition.

(c) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen the Indian textile industry, including cotton industry to meet the emerging global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.